

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SANAA 01017 291458Z

41

ACTION SS-25

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P 291315Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5421

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

S E C R E T SANAA 1017

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, SA, YE

SUBJECT: YAR ARMS MISSION TO RIYADH

FOR ATHERTON NEA FROM SCOTES

REF: JIDDA 2990, 2993

1. I FULLY SHARE EMBASSY JIDDA'S INCREASING FRUSTRATION OVER WHAT APPEARS TO BE CONTINUING US/SAUDI ALPHONSE-GASTON ROUTINE RE YEMENI ARMY MODERINIZATION PLAN. AS HAS BEEN REPORTED IN PAST, I SENSE RISING WAVE OF SKEPTICISM WITHIN YEMENI ARMY VIS-A-VIS US/SAUDI INTENTIONS AND FRANKLY I DON'T BLAME THEM. I STRONGLY URGE, THEREFORE, THAT WE DECIDE NOW TO MOVE ON TO NEXT ACT OR ELSE I FEAR WE WILL HAVE MORE THAN EGG ON OUR FACE.

2. EMBASSY JIDDA'S IDEA OF PRESENTING SAUDIS WITH SPECIFIC PROPOSALS DRAWN FROM FIFER REPORT IS A GOOD ONE. AT SAME TIME, I WOULD PROPOSE TO PROVIDE SAME LIST (ONCE DEPT APPROVES IT) TO YEMENIS SO THAT THEY MIGHT USE IT AS BASIS OF DISCUSSION WHEN THEY VISIT RIYADH. THIS WOULD HELP TO MAKE THEIR VISIT MORE EFFECTIVE AND ALSO A COORDINATED US-YEMENI EFFORT WHILE ASSURING THAT IT DOES NOT TURN INTO A CEREMONIAL TEA-DRINKING JUNKET.

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3. AS YOU AWARE, IDEA OF YEMENI TEAM VISIT TO RIYADH
ORIGINATED FROM OUR SIDE AND PRESIDENT HAMDY IS STILL
WAITING FOR ME TO ADVISE HIM WHEN THE YEMENI TEAM
SHOULD PROCEED AND WHAT IT SHOULD DISCUSS. I WOULD
APPRECIATE EARLY GUIDANCE FROM DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY
JIDDA ON THESE TWO POINTS. SCOTES

SECRET

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Message Attributes

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